

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

SAM-01 SSM-03 /062 W

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R 101454Z JUL 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3252

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0948

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQI PRESS AND RECENT DEVELOPEMENTS

1. BAGHDAD PRESS CONTINUED ITS SHARP ATTACKS ON SYRIAN REGIME LAST WEEK INCLUDING HEADLINE STORIES ON JULY 7 BOMB BLASTS IN DEIR-AL-ZOUR AND ALLEGED EXECUTION OF NINE SYRIAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS FOR REFUSAL TO CONDUCT MILITARY OPERATIONS IN LEBANON.

2. NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, IRAQ STRONGLY SUPPORTED UGANDA'S "RIGHT TO RETALIATE AGAINST ZIONIST AIR PIRACY". IRAQI PRESS HAS AVOIDED MENTIONING SUDANESE ACCUSTION OF LIBYAN SPONSORSHIP OF RECENT COUP ATTEMPT IN KHARTOUM BUT LIBYAN DENIAL OF INVOLVEMENT WAS CARRIED ON INSIDE PAGE. COMMENT: IRAQI REGIME APPARENTLY STILL HOPES TO WORK WITH LIBYAN REGIME IN SPITE OF LIBYAN BEHAVIOR.

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3. IRAQI DELEGATION REPRESENTING PERMANENT COMMITTEE OF ARAB

POPULAR CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND LEBANESE NATIONAL FRONT HAS LEFT FOR PRAGUE TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR PERMANENT COMMITTEE. (BAGHDAD 0906) GROUP PLANS TO VISIT OTHER EAST EUROPEAN CAPITALS BEFORE RETURNING TO BAGHDAD.

4. SADAM HUSSEIN SPENT JULY 5-8 MENDING FENCES IN NORTHERN IRAQ. HE MET WITH LOCAL DIGNITARIES, LISTENED TO THEIR COMPLAINTS AND PROMISED THAT THE DEVELOPEMENT OF THE "AUTONOMOUS AREAS" WOULD PROCEDE HAND IN HAND WITH THE DEVELOPEMENT OF THE REST OF IRAQ. HE ALSO ADDRESSED IRAQI MILITARY UNITS STATIONED IN NORTH.

5. WHILE GOI MADE NO MENTION THIS WEEK OF IRAQI FORCES ON SYRIAN BORDER, CONSENSUS OF OPINION AMONG BAGHDAD DIPLOMATIC SET, BASED ON THEIR TALKS WITH GOI OFFICIALS, IS THAT TRAINING EXERCISES WILL BE STAGED IN MID-JULY FOLLOWED BY A QUIET WITHDRAWAL OF UNITS TO THEIR PERMANENT BASES.
WILEY

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